

**GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
April 20, 2007**

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy board meeting was held on April 20, 2007, 10:00 a.m., at The Professional Licensing Boards Division offices located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

The following members were present:

Jane H. Johnson, Chairman
Kathy V. Lescak, Vice Chairman
Melony Phillips, Cognizant
Steve Earles

Absent:

Marlene Gaskill, Consumer

Administrative Staff Present:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director, Janet Wray, Assistant Attorney General (via-videoconference), Serena Gadson, Application Specialist II, Pam Candler, Application Specialist, Yvonne LeSane, Application Specialist, and Amanda Allen, Board Secretary.

Guest Attendees:

David Brown, Everest Institute (former GMI)
Donna Miller, Everest Institute (former GMI)
Betty Echols, American Professional Institute
Ray DeArmond, International School of Skin and Nailcare

Ms. Johnson established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the Board meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Ms. Phillips moved and Mr. Earles seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19 (4) and O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2 (k)(4), to deliberate on the Cognizant Member's Report and to receive information pertaining to Investigative Interviews. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members Earles, Phillips, Lescak, and Johnson. The Board concluded Executive Session in order to vote on these matters and to continue with the public session.

Agenda:

Mr. Earles moved, Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to approve the agenda with late items added. None opposed, Motion carried.

Announcements:

Ms. Johnson reported that the Board's appointed consumer member, Marlene Gaskill, has contacted her and has expressed concerns over not being able to attend all the scheduled board meetings. She is self employed and would have to close down her business completely to attend. She stated to Ms. Johnson she takes the Board's business very seriously and only wants to be a contributing member to the Board. She is open to the Board's recommendations regarding her appointment.

Board Discussion: Ms. Gaskill, as the consumer member, is a very important part of this Board. At this time, the Board has chosen to meet every two weeks due to the number of applications being received, and, the fact that the Board requires they review each and every application. The Board has had no quorum problems to date and feels if Ms. Gaskill can attend at least one meeting day per month, keep up with all correspondence between meetings and, offer her input then they foresee no problems with her remaining on the Board at this time. If problems arise in the future, they will again address this issue.

Minutes:

Ms. Phillips moved, Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to approve the March 01, and March 02, 2007 Minutes with corrections. None opposed, Motion carried.

Correspondences:

The Board received a request from Donna Evans, Georgia Beauty School, to meet before the full board to discuss her school. Ms. Allen informed the Board, the school has received correspondence from her on more than one occasion requesting additional information. The school has still not provided all the information the Education Advisor member needs to make her recommendation to date.

Mr. Earles moved, Ms. Lescak seconded and the Board voted not to meet with Ms. Evans at this time, however, they will consider such a meeting in the future if the school/program is denied approval.

Executive Director's Report:

1. Mr. Zimmerman asked Janet Wray, Assistant Attorney General, if the Georgia Massage Therapy Law dictates whether or not the Board must issue Provisional Permits.

Ms. Janet Wray, Assistant Attorney General, stated that the law reads that the Board "may", if they choose, issue Provisional Permits.

Mr. Earles moved, Ms. Phillips seconded, and the Board voted not to issue Provisional Permits at this time, however, the Board reserves the option of revisiting the issue at a later date. None opposed, Motion carried.

2. Mr. Zimmerman requested from Ms. Janet Wray, Assistant Attorney General, a reminder explanation to the Board with regard to the specific language used on the application post July 1, 2007, page 3, part 3, eligibility requirement #5, "official transcript from an established state licensed massage therapy school" was used.

Per Ms. Janet Wray, Assistant Attorney General, around September 2006, as the Board was developing the application for licensure with the advice and suggestions of AAG, the Board stated they did not think they would be able to approve **every** out of state school. The process would be cumbersome and delay licensure of potentially

qualified applicants during this, for lack of a better term, “grandfathering in” period post July 1, 2007. Mr. Zimmerman inquired about the transcripts: as long as the transcript is from a state licensed school and it shows that the school meets or exceeds the 500 required hours set forth by the Board, then would the Board be able to approve the school without having to request additional information? Janet Wray, Assistant Attorney General, also stated that the Board has the right to request additional information from any school at any time.

Board Discussion: The Board feels they have been created to primarily protect the public from harm by practicing massage therapist. They feel very strongly that the only way to assure someone has any structured massage therapy training that meets or exceeds the adopted requirements set forth by the Board in rule 345-3 Applications, is to review the same information those schools located in the state (Georgia) have to provide the Board.

The Board agreed to continue discussion on this matter as the Board evolves; however, for the meantime, the educational representative appointed to the Board will continue to review all materials and documents submitted by schools and/or programs for compliance with Board rules and policies. Mr. Zimmerman thanked the Board for its diligence and will keep the Board informed as to the number of pending applications and other matters that may possibly delay licensure of individuals.

3. Post July 01, Application for Licensure was reviewed and revised and presented to the Board by Ms. Gadson, Application Specialist II.

Ms. Phillips moved, Mr. Earles seconded, and the Board voted to approve the revisions made to the post July 01, Application for Licensure. None opposed, Motion carried.

Rules and Forms – Continued Discussion:

The Board began drafting the following rules.

- 1) 345-1 Definitions, 2) 345-3 Post July 01, 2007 (Application and Rule) Licensure, 3) 345-4 License Renewal, CE Requirements and Reinstatement of License, 4) 345-5 Licensure by Endorsement, 5) 345-6 Licensure by Reciprocity, 6) 345-9 Exemptions from Licensure, 7) 345-10 Discipline and Provisional Permits.

Investigative Interviews:

Ms. Lescak moved, Mr. Earles seconded, and the Board voted to take the following action on applicants for licensure appearing for an investigative interview: None opposed, Motion carried.

Hokasnsnson, Melissa
L.A.
O.B., III
Jurgensen, Frederick

Approved
Approved Pending
Approved Pending
Approved

Educational Advisor's Report

The following Massage Therapy Schools applied to be considered as Board Recognized Massage Therapy Educational Programs, each school submitted an incomplete application and are currently still in the pending approval process.

1. 1st Choice Institute, Inc.
2. Academy of Healing Arts
3. Acupuncture & Massage College
4. Advanced Career Training (both locations)
5. Aiken Technical College
6. Albany Therapeutic Massage Apprenticeship Program
7. American Institute of Massage Therapy
8. American Professional Institute (API) (all five locations)
9. Arlington School of Massage
10. Ashland Institute of Massage
11. Atlanta Beauty I
12. Athens Institute for Massage
13. Augusta School of Massage
14. The Baltimore School of Massage (York Campus)
15. The Baltimore School of Massage (Main Campus)
16. Bhakti Academe-School of Intuitive Massage & Healing
17. Body Concepts- Wellness Institute
18. Cayce-Reilly School of Massotherapy
19. Core Institute School of Massage Therapy
20. Downeast School of Massage
21. Educating Hands School of Massage
22. Florida School of Massage
23. Georgia Academy of Massage, LLC
24. Georgia Academy Technical Wellness (AKA: Georgia Academy of Therapeutic Massage)
25. Georgia Beauty School
26. Georgia Career Institute
27. Georgia Massage Institute
28. Georgia Medical Institute (Norcross Location)
29. Georgia Medical Institute (Jonesboro Location)
30. Georgia Medical Institute (Marietta Location)
31. Georgia Mountains School of Massage
32. Gwinnett College
33. Heritage Institute
34. High Tech Institute
35. International School of Skin and Nailcare
36. Lake Lanier School of Massage
37. Martial Arts Academy
38. Massage Therapy Training Institute
39. Medix School
40. Miller Mote Technical College
41. Moultrie Technical College
42. Myotherapy Institute of Massage
43. Potomac Massage Training Institute
44. Space Coast Health Institute

- 45. South Carolina Massage & Esthetics Institute
- 46. Southern Union State Community College
- 47. Sun Coast-Tampa Bay School of Massage Therapy
- 48. Utah College of Massage Therapy
- 49. Virginia School of Massage

The Educational Advisor stated that the Florida School of Massage basic clinical hours are 35 hours and would the Board consider drafting a letter to the school requesting that they increase their clinical hours to meet the Board requirements? Letter will be drafted by the Educational Advisor. Response from the school will be presented at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Mr. Earles moved, Ms. Lescak seconded and the Board voted to approve the Educational Advisor's report as presented. None opposed, Motion carried.

Cognizant Report:

The board cognizant has received several complaints to date. In each instance, the respondent either has applied for licensure or not, and at this time, due to the late funding of the Board and the late appointment of the Board, the Board will continue to monitor all complaints received. Each complaint received will be presented to the full board for discussion and recommendations, including the Assistant Attorney General's opinions and suggestions.

Mr. Earles moved, Ms. Lescak seconded and the Board voted to accept the Cognizant report as presented. None opposed, Motion carried.

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Earles moved, Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to adjourn today's meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Amanda Allen, Board Secretary

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director

Jane H. Johnson, Chair
Georgia State Board of Massage Therapy

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

These minutes were approved and signed on: _____.